



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release MAY 3, 1960

CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Six organizations and individuals have been selected to receive this year's Conservation Service Awards of the Department of the Interior, Secretary Fred A. Seaton announced today.

Honored for their educational advertising campaigns in behalf of conservation of America's priceless natural resources were two major oil companies, the Sinclair Oil Corporation and the Standard Oil Company of California.

Others receiving the awards were Philip Sporn, of New York, president of the American Electric Power Service Corporation; Vincent Myers, a farmer of Apache, Oklahoma; the Four-States Irrigation Council representing Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas; and Charles M. Goethe, of Sacramento, California, a pioneer conservationist.

The awards are made annually to individuals or groups outside the Department for outstanding contributions to conservation programs.

In his citation to the Sinclair Oil Corporation Secretary Seaton wrote to P. C. Spencer, chairman of the company's board of directors: "For the past five years you and the Sinclair Oil Corporation have made a noteworthy contribution to the cause of conservation in your enlightened program of public service advertising. Sinclair's American Conservation Series has effectively stimulated awareness in the American public of the importance of not only seeing but conserving this Nation's heritage of scenic wonders and historic sites."

In his letter of citation to R. G. Follis, of San Francisco, Chairman of the Board of the Standard Oil Company of California, Secretary Seaton said: "In recognition of your outstanding program to create public awareness of the importance of fish and wildlife resources, I take pleasure in granting to you the Conservation Service Award of the Department of the Interior. Your worthwhile contributions have encouraged good citizenship among the youth of our Nation and stimulated wildlife appreciation by the general public."

Other awards went to:

--Philip Sporn, of New York, president of the American Electric Power Service Corporation, "in recognition of the valuable services you have rendered as a proponent of conservation of the fuels of the United States."

"Of specific significance," Secretary Seaton's letter of citation said, "have been your contributions to the conservation of fuels through improved utilization practices. Among these were the advanced design and operation of the heat pump, and numerous improvements in the transmission of electricity."

--Vincent Myers, a farmer of Apache, Oklahoma, because of his efforts in behalf of the soil and moisture conservation program of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. "For the past fourteen years," Secretary Seaton wrote in his letter of citation, "you have followed conservation practices that have resulted in many improvements on your farm. More important, however, is the service you have performed to the community in which you live by your leadership in your Indian Soil Conservation Association, your school and your church. Your leadership is an outstanding example of the progress that can be made in the field of natural resources conservation."

--The Four-States Irrigation Council representing Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas, "in recognition of its outstanding service in the field of conservation." In a letter to Arno Windscheffel, Smith Center, Kansas, President of the Council, Secretary Seaton said: "Through its meetings and publications, the Council assisted in the progress of irrigation through encouraging water users in efficient irrigation facilities, presenting and stressing economical irrigation practices, and research in solving unique problems."

"The effects of the organization's efforts to improve irrigation and water conservation are already providing widespread benefits on thousands of irrigated farms in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas."

--Charles M. Goethe, of Sacramento, California, in recognition of many years of "devoted service" in the cause of conservation. "Millions of Americans," Secretary Seaton said in his citation to Mr. Goethe, "annually share in the benefits of the unique program of personal interpretive services in the national parks and monuments. These rewards in turn promote appreciation for natural values, and through this the cause of conservation is served. In large measure, we have you to thank for the inception and initial support of this potent force in America. In Switzerland prior to World War I, you and Mrs. Goethe had observed a recreational program based on nature study for children that instilled in them a sense of pride and patriotism. Transplanting this idea to America, you took a step of tremendous initiative and vision when you launched, with your own funds, the start of nature guiding in this country at California's Lake Tahoe."

"Observing the success of your endeavor, the Director of the National Park Service urged you to transfer your work to Yosemite National Park. From this modest beginning in 1920 has grown the vigorous and effective program of nature interpretation in the National Park System today. Since those formative years, you have never ceased to demonstrate your continuing deep interest in furthering the conservation and educational activities of the National Park Service."

x x x